

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, Claims 3, 4 and 6-8 have been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 2 and 5 have been amended to change their dependency.

Claim 9 has been added. Claim 9 corresponds to present Claim 8 but depends from Claim 2.

Claim 1 has been canceled.

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 2-9 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claim 8 is allowed.

I. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

At page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Verstegen et al (U.S. Patent No. 4, 216,408). Further, at page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Oshio (U.S. Patent No. 6,740,262).

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are moot because Claim 1 has been canceled and Claims 2 and 5 have been amended to depend from Claims 3 and 4, which are not included in the rejections. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

II. Response to Claim Objection

At page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

In response, Applicants have rewritten Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 in independent form.
Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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